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Home Video DVD Review: The Beatles - Their Golden Age

"A sinister cabal of superior writers."

# DVD Review: The Beatles - Their Golden Age

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Author: Greg Barbrick — Published: Aug 07, 2012 at 9:10 pm [0 comments](#)

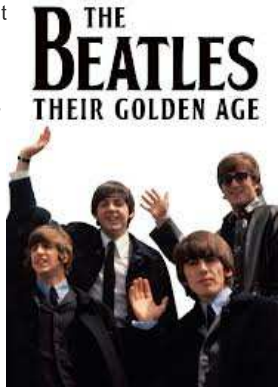
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I wonder if one day the tale of The Beatles will join the likes of Homer's *The Odyssey* or Aesop's *Fables* as part of the canon of the greatest stories ever told. It seems to be the closest to a modern day odyssey or fable that has ever come to pass. One of the most original (and hilarious) versions of it was Eric Idle and Neil Innes' *The Rutles* (1978). But that was all done with a wink and a nod, in fact George Harrison was even involved in it. As far as a "straight" telling of the band's time together, it is hard to beat the *Beatles Anthology* (1995). All of this is meant to suggest that it is pretty difficult at this late date to find any kind of an original take on the basic story, but the new *The Beatles - Their Golden Age* (2010) makes a valiant effort.



This one-hour documentary was written and is narrated by the self-described publisher, author, and filmmaker Les Krantz. There is a great deal what appears to be public domain footage included, but I have never seen a lot of this material before, so that is a big plus. There are scenes from 1963 of the lads on a boat in Holland, and a short film titled "The Beatles Come To Town," filmed in Manchester that same year. There is no footage of them performing however, all the shots are of the audience before and after performances.

There is also a short interview with John, done as part of promotion for his book *In His Own Write*. In 1964, we are shown extras being hired for the crowd scenes in *A Hard Day's Night*. We are also offered a brief interview with Paul in Seattle in '64, with the Space Needle behind him. Next up is *Help!*, which again offers something I had not previously seen, one of the original trailers for the film.

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Greg Barbrick is an old time "music biz" groupie/writer. He thinks that nothing good has been recorded since 1978.

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